



News Release

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Yakima optometrist surrenders license

OLYMPIA — Yakima optometrist Gary J. Martinkus (OD00000922) has agreed to surrender his license to practice optometry in the state, completing a legal process that began in 2011.

In July 2011 the Board of Optometry and the Department of Health immediately suspended Martinkus' license over concerns that he's unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

Martinkus intimidated staff and patients into buying money orders for him to send to foreign lottery scams. He took phone calls while treating patients and forgot the patients, and failed to record patients' diagnoses and evaluations. He also tried to borrow money from patients to continue his participation in foreign lottery scams.

Martinkus has agreed to surrender his license and not to resume the practice of optometry in Washington.

Legal documents in this case are available by calling 360-236-4700 or on the Department of Health's "[Provider Credential Search](#)" (www.doh.wa.gov). Anyone who believes a health care provider acted unprofessionally is encouraged to call that number to report their complaint.

The Board of Optometry regulates optometrists in Washington. The program establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to state residents.

The [Department of Health website](#) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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